

Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 PM-04 AID-05 IGA-02 DEAE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 USIA-15

NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY S/NM:RADUGSTAD:OSG

APPROVED BY S/NM:SBVANCE

O/ISO:MMERCURIO (SUBS)

ARA/MEX:HLANE (PHONE)

ARA/RPP:GBROWN (SUBS)

DEA:ISWANK (PHONE)

AID/SER/INC:MMCBEE (PHONE)

LA/DP:DPOPE (PHONE)

S/NM:TCOX (SUBS)

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R 251447Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS STATE 239062

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJE-T: PROPOSED COMPUTER PROJECT FOR GOM NARCOTICS
PROGRAM

1. THE ANALYSIS OF THE AUTOMATED DATA PROCESSING REQUIRE-
MENTS FOR SUPPORT OF THE MEXICAN NARCOTICS PROGRAM HAS BEEN
REVIEWED WITH THE FOLLOWING RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

2. EARLIER DISCUSSIONS ON THE SUBJECT IN MEXICO RESULTED
IN AGREEMENT WITH THE GOM AUTHORITIES THAT THE SYSTEM IS
NEEDED IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS OF ERADICATION OF
POPPY FIELDS AND ARRESTING DRUG LAW VIOLATORS. TO ACCOM-
PLISH THESE GOALS THE SYSTEM APPLICATIONS WOULD INCLUDE
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AN AUTOMATED FILING SYSTEM FOR DATA ON PEOPLE AND AIRCRAFT

INVOLVED IN CURRENT OR PAST INVESTIGATIONS, AN AIRCRAFT PARTS INVENTORY AND AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE SYSTEM, AND A POPPY FIELD INVENTORY. THESE SYSTEM APPLICATIONS MAY BE DESCRIBED BRIEFLY AS FOLLOWS:

A. INTELLIGENCE DATA FILE - MEXICAN AUTHORITIES INDICATED THAT THE FIRST PRIORITY WAS THE AUTOMATION OF INFORMATION DEVELOPED IN THE NUMEROUS INVESTIGATIONS GOING ON CONCURRENTLY AROUND THE COUNTRY. REPORTS ARE MADE DAILY TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE IN MEXICO CITY ON ALL ONGOING

INVESTIGATIONS. PRESENTLY, THERE IS NO METHOD OF RELATING INFORMATION BETWEEN THE VARIOUS INVESTIGATIONS.

B. AIRCRAFT PARTS INVENTORY AND MAINTENANCE SYSTEM - THIS SYSTEM WOULD ADDRESS THE FAIRLY COMMON PROBLEM OF MAINTAINING OPTIMUM INVENTORY LEVELS BASED ON PROJECTED AIRCRAFT UTILIZATION RATES AND STANDARD MAINTENANCE SCHEDULES. THE MAINTENANCE SCHEDULES THEMSELVES COULD ALSO BE PRODUCED BY SUCH A SYSTEM. THE USE OF EXISTING SOFTWARE PACKAGES AVAILABLE FROM U.S. CONTRACTORS TO CREATE SUCH A SYSTEM WOULD AVOID RE-INVENTION OF THE WHEEL.

C. FIELDS INVENTORY SYSTEM - INFORMATION ON OVER 22,000 KNOWN POPPY FIELDS CONTINUOUSLY FLOWS INTO MEXICO CITY FROM 17 FIELD HEADQUARTERS. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT FIELDS ARE SPRAYED DURING THE PROPER PHASE OF THE POPPY'S GROWING CYCLE. INFORMATION ON WEATHER, FIELD LOCATIONS, AND SPECIAL GROWING CONDITIONS CAN BE COMBINED TO PRODUCE EFFICIENT SPRAYING PATTERNS. DATA WOULD ORIGINATE FROM INFRARED MAPPING AND OTHER AERIAL SURVEILLANCE AND DATA GATHERING TECHNIQUES. IF A REMOTE SENSING SYSTEM IS INSTALLED, THE DATA FROM THIS SYSTEM WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN MACHINE-READABLE FORM WITH OBVIOUS EFFICIENCIES FOR DATA ENTRY. UNTIL THEN, DATA INPUT WOULD REQUIRE SUBSTANTIAL EFFORT BUT THE RETURNS COULD BE WELL WORTH IT.

3. THE REVIEW OF THE PROBLEM CONFIRMS THE NEED FOR COMPUTERIZATION OF THE ERADICATION AND INTERDICTION PROGRAM, IN VIEW OF THE SIGNIFICANT OVERALL BUDGET OF THE ANTI-DRUG UNCLASSIFIED

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EFFORT AND THE VOLUME OF DATA INVOLVED IN VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAMS. INITIALLY, THE ABOVE THREE SYSTEMS WOULD BE INVOLVED. IN VIEW OF THE USUAL DELAY THAT CAN BE EXPECTED IN DEVELOPING A WORKABLE SYSTEM, TRAINING THE REQUIRED PERSONNEL, AND THE URGENT NEEDS OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE VAST AND DIFFUSE INFORMATION TO BE PROPERLY AND EFFECTIVELY CONTROLLED THROUGH AN ACCEPTABLE SOFTWARE PACKAGE, THE RECOMMENDATION IS MADE FOR THE REQUIRED

SYSTEM DESIGN, PROGRAMMING AND HARDWARE NEEDS TO BE OBTAINED ON A TIME-SHARING BASIS FROM A SERVICE BUREAU.

4. WE BELIEVE THAT THE ENTIRE PROJECT CAN BE CONTRACTED OUT TO A SERVICE BUREAU. THE VARIOUS SYSTEMS COULD BE INSTALLED MUCH MORE RAPIDLY BY A CONTRACTOR WHO HAS A LARGE EXPERIENCED STAFF OF COMPUTER PROFESSIONALS AND RELIABLE HARDWARE READY TO GO. THE PROPOSED APPLICATIONS ARE NOT EASY ONES AND SHOULD BE DONE BY AN EXPERIENCED ORGANIZATION. SEVERAL U.S. FIRMS HAVE BRANCHES IN MEXICO CITY WITH THE CAPABILITY TO HANDLE THE PROJECT.

ORGANIZATIONS NEW TO AUTOMATED DATA PROCESSING (ADP) USUALLY START BY USING SOME FORM OF TIME-SHARING SERVICE PURCHASED FROM A CONTRACTOR.

5. AMBASSADOR VANCE REQUESTS THAT A COPY OF THIS MESSAGE BE PROVIDED PERSONALLY TO DR. GERTZ, THE CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO ADVISE DR. GERTZ TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH SOFTWARE COMPANIES IN ORDER TO DEVELOP SPECIFIC PROPOSALS ALONG THE LINES INDICATED ABOVE AND COST ESTIMATES, WHICH SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR CONSIDERATION AND REVIEW. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), COMPUTERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE239062
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RADUGSTAD:OSG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760363-0856
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760919/aaaaaqct.tel
Line Count: 138
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SNM
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2004 by cookms>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: E-T: PROPOSED COMPUTER PROJECT FOR GOM NARCOTICS PROGRAM
TAGS: SNAR, MX
To: MEXICO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006